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MEASURE RETURNED TO CALENDAR—SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 13

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate budget resolution be returned to the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF FATHER JOSEPH DAMIEN DE VEUSTER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 125, a resolution to honor the contributions of Father Joseph Damien de Veuster, submitted earlier today by Senators AKAKA, INOUE, and others; that the resolution and the preamble be agreed to, en bloc, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements appear in the RECORD as if read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the resolution (S. Res. 125) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 125

Whereas Father Joseph Damien de Veuster was born in Tremeloo, Belgium, on January 3, 1840;

Whereas Father Damien entered the Sacred Hearts Order at Louvain, Belgium, as a postulant in January 1859 and took his final vows in Paris on October 7, 1860;

Whereas, after arriving in Honolulu on March 19, 1864, to join the Sacred Hearts Mission in Hawaii, Father Damien was ordained to the priesthood in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace on May 21, 1864;

Whereas Father Damien was sent to Puna, Kohala, and Hamakua districts on the island of Hawaii, where Father Damien served people in isolated communities for 9 years;

Whereas the alarming spread of Hansen's disease, also known as leprosy, for which there was no known cure, prompted the Hawaiian Legislature to pass an Act to Prevent the Spread of Leprosy in 1865;

Whereas the Act required segregating those afflicted with leprosy to the isolated peninsula of Kalaupapa, Molokai, where those afflicted by leprosy were virtually imprisoned by steep cliffs and open seas;

Whereas those afflicted by leprosy were forced to separate from their families, had meager medical care and supplies, and had poor living and social conditions;

Whereas in July 1872, Father Damien wrote to the Father General that many of his parishioners had been sent to the settlement on Molokai and lamented that he should join them;

Whereas on May 12, 1873, Father Damien petitioned Bishop Maigret, having received a

request earlier for a resident priest at Kalaupapa, to allow Father Damien to stay on Molokai and devote his life to leprosy patients;

Whereas for 16 years, from 1873 to 1889, Father Damien labored to bring material and spiritual comfort to the leprosy patients of Kalaupapa, building chapels, water cisterns, and boys and girls homes;

Whereas on April 15, 1889, at the age of 49, Father Damien died of leprosy contracted a few years earlier;

Whereas the Roman Catholic Church began the consideration of beatification of Father Damien in February 1955, and Father Damien will be beatified on June 4, 1995, by Pope John Paul II in Brussels, Belgium;

Whereas Father Damien was selected by the State of Hawaii in 1965 as 1 of the distinguished citizens of the State whose statue would be installed in Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol;

Whereas the life of Father Damien continues to be a profound example of selfless devotion to others and remains an inspiration for all mankind;

Whereas common use of sulfone drugs in the 1940's removed the dreaded sentence of disfigurement and death imposed by leprosy, and the 1969 repeal of the isolation law allowed greater mobility for former Hansen's disease patients;

Whereas in the mid-1970's, the community of former leprosy patients at Molokai recommended the establishment of a United States National Park at Kalaupapa, out of a strong sense of stewardship of the legacy left by Father Damien and the rich history of Kalaupapa;

Whereas the Kalaupapa National Historic Park was established in 1980 with a provision that former Hansen's disease patients may remain in the park as long as they wish; and

Whereas the remaining patients at Kalaupapa, many of whom were exiled as children or young adults and who have endured immeasurable hardships and untold sorrows, are a special legacy for America, exemplifying the dignity and strength of the human spirit: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the United States recognizes Father Damien for his service to humanity and takes this occasion to—

(1) celebrate achievements of modern medicine in combating the once-dreaded leprosy disease;

(2) remember that victims of leprosy still suffer social banishment in many parts of the world; and

(3) honor the people of Kalaupapa as a living American legacy of human spirit and dignity.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit a resolution recognizing the contributions of Father Damien, a very special person who lived in Hawaii during the late 1800s, for his service to humanity. Senators INOUE, DASCHLE, KENNEDY, SIMON, and MURKOWSKI have joined me as cosponsors of this measure.

Father Damien is best known for his tireless efforts to provide material and spiritual comforts for leprosy patients at Kalaupapa, Molokai, during the latter half of the 19th century. Beloved by the people of Hawaii and the country of his birth, Belgium, his life serves as a model for all mankind.

In recognition of his heroic acts, the Roman Catholic Church began the consideration of Father Damien's beatification in 1955. The State of Hawaii, in 1965, selected Father Damien as one of

its distinguished citizens and his statue was installed in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall. I am pleased to announce that Father Damien will be beatified by Pope John Paul II on June 4, 1995, in Brussels, Belgium.

Mr. President, lessons from the life of Father Damien extend beyond religious beliefs and considerations. My resolution recognizes Father Damien's life for his overall service to humanity. Indeed, his life was not that of an ordinary man.

Born in Belgium in 1840, Father Damien arrived in Hawaii in 1864 to join the Sacred Hearts Mission in Honolulu. After several years of serving isolated communities on the island of Hawaii, Father Damien became concerned that many of his parishioners had been sent to Kalaupapa, Molokai, a settlement established for leprosy patients in 1865. In 1873, his request to serve the people of Kalaupapa was granted.

For 16 years, Father Damien labored to bring material and spiritual comfort to Kalaupapa's leprosy patients, building chapels, water cisterns, and boys and girls homes. His selfless devotion to the patients was evident when in 1876, he told a U.S. medical inspector, "This is my work in the world. Sooner or later I shall become a leper, but may it not be until I have exhausted my capabilities for good." Father Damien died of leprosy, at the age of 49, on April 15, 1889. While his death was a devastating loss, the spiritual foundation that he established for the community of Kalaupapa would forever be remembered by the people of Hawaii.

Out of concern that Father Damien's legacy and Kalaupapa's rich history not be forgotten, the Kalaupapa National Historical Park was established in 1980, with a provision that former leprosy patients may remain as long as they wish. While the common use of sulfone drugs since the 1940s had rendered leprosy, or Hansen's disease, controllable, and the 1969 repeal of Hawaii's isolation law allowed greater mobility for former leprosy patients at Kalaupapa, many continued to face discrimination and banishment from their families and the community at large.

To show how the stigma of leprosy impacted everyday lives, I would like to share with you the words expressed by a 70-year old woman who had lived at Kalaupapa for 46 years. In part, she said, "I was finally paroled in 1966. My mother was still alive, so I wrote to her and told her I was finally cured. I could come home. After a long while, her letter came. She said, 'Don't come home. You stay at Kalaupapa.'" I wrote her back and said that I wanted to just visit, to see the place where I was born. Again, she wrote back. This time she said, "No, you stay there." You see, my mother had many friends and I think she felt shame before them. I was disfigured, even though I was cured. So she told me, her daughter, "Don't come home." She said, "You stay right